

Campus Voice

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GCC weighs in on welfare issues

"Four years ago we had close to 500 students on AFDC attending GCC," says Anne Wiley, professor of psychology and women's studies, who co-chairs an ad hoc welfare committee on campus. "We have about a hundred now." Wiley and two students, Patti Thurber and Darlene Gibson, recently attended a Welfare of the Commonwealth

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Walk into our new planetarium!

Astronomy students at GCC now enjoy a new perspective on the solar system, thanks to an inflatable planetarium that holds up to 25 people, says Toby Sutton, professor of natural science and business data processing. "It's a plastic semi-sphere about sixteen feet in diameter that inflates with a fan. Inside, a very creative projector pro-

jects the starfield on the inner surface of the dome. It's a pretty sophisticated piece of equipment." The device takes about ten minutes to set up, and ten minutes to put away. The plastic dome folds up into a hockey bag, and the equipment—fan, projector, and cylinders—fills a couple of good-size suitcases. "We've used it once, and it worked very



"We've used it once and the students didn't want to leave it!"

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Visit www.jagatgcc.com for on-line learning!

www.jagatgcc.com is the address of the web site designed by Jeff Galbraith for students in his business management and accounting classes. Galbraith's students visit the site to obtain essential course materials. Homework assignments are exchanged via e-mail. "I feel this technology is expected of people in the business world," says Galbraith, "so I wanted to

have a chance to expose my students to it." Log on to www.jagatgcc.com and an animated Welcome banner (the letters revolve!) greets the visitor. A pair of rolling eyeballs directs the visitor to "Take a look" at an option selection box. Select the desired course (or other destination), click on "Go," and students have at their fingertips a course description, outline, readings, and

homework assignments. And that's only the beginning. "Check out my hyperlinks," says Galbraith, "because I have two pages of links, one for business research and one for everything else." The hyperlinks allow students to easily visit related sites, conduct research, even check the news and weather! What do his students think of on-line

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"We all came away with a sense of the bigger picture, rather than just what's happening in Franklin County." —Anne Wiley



Donna Wilson, Dean of Humanities, in Modern Language Association Journal, Autumn 1998, a review of the book, *Lecturas Periodísticas* (Milton Azevedo, Heath, 1996). Says Donna, who also reviews for the journal *Hispania*, "I love reviewing books because it keeps me well connected to what is going on in the classroom."

Anne Wiley (Psychology, Women's Studies), in *The Recorder* (11/16/98), a "My Turn" editorial, "Poverty hurts all Americans," part of *The Recorder* series on poverty in Franklin County, "Living on the Brink."

GCC weighs in on welfare issues

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Conference on Nov. 14th at Bunker Hill Community College. The Welfare Education Training Access Coalition (WETAC), a co-sponsor, is lobbying to count schooling as part of the 20 hours of community service required of welfare recipients. Another legislative effort

seeks to introduce a bill to fund a parent-scholar program to help low income parents trying to attend community college. "We all came away with a sense of the bigger picture, rather than just what's happening in Franklin County," said Wiley. As the Dec. 1st cut-off date approaches,

GCC has been exploring ways to link short-term job training initiatives favored by the state to certificate and degree programs. "We are resistant to training people just to get them off the welfare rolls and into a deadend job," said Steve Budd in the *Recorder* series, "Living on the Brink."

Planetarium

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well," says Sutton. "The students were very excited. We'd like to use it as an outreach, taking the planetarium into schools in the area." Sutton, who is retiring at the

end of the year, is training a group of four students how to set up and use the planetarium. The group of students being trained this semester would subsequently train astronomy students in next

semester's class, so that each semester there would be new students learning how to use the equipment. The planetarium was paid for with the help of matching funds from STEMTEC.

Six from GCC attend faculty development sessions

Teaching and learning excellence in the student-focused classroom was the theme of the New England Faculty Develop-

ment Consortium at their recent meeting in Worcester in Nov. 13th. Attending from GCC were Anne Wiley, Kate

Finnegan, Lindy Gougeon, Dan Raden, Ana Gaillat, Saul Greenblatt, and Pam Simanski.

www.jagatgcc.com: 3,325 visitors log on as of 11/14/98!

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learning? "I have some students who are very excited," says Galbraith, "and I have probably have some who are very frustrated. But I go out of my way to try to make it easy for them."

How do you go about doing something like this? "You just do it!" replied Galbraith. "It's never finished, of course. Something like this is very dynamic. I probably update my web site maybe three times a week. You come

across a new article and think, 'Here's something new!' and bingo, you stick it in and have them read it! It's new territory, and I'm not sure I have everything right, by any means, but I'm learning all the time."